

BES

To BESPI'T. *v. a.* I bespat, or bespit; I have bespit, or bespitten. [from spit.] To dawb with spittle.
 BESPO'K. [irreg. particip. from bespeak; which see.]
 To BESPO'T. *v. a.* [from spot.] To mark with spots.
 Mildew rests on the wheat, bespott'g the stalks with a different colour from the natural. *Martino's Husbandry.*
 To BESPRE'AD. *v. a.* [from spread.] To spread over; to cover over.

His nuptial bed,
 With curious needles wrought, and painted flowers bespread.
Dryden.
 The globe is equally bespread; so that no place wants proper inhabitants. *Derham's Physico-Theology.*
 To BESPRINKLE. *v. a.* [from sprinkle.] To sprinkle over; to scatter over.

He indeed, imitating the father poet, whose life he had also written, hath besprinkled his work with many fabulistics.

A purple flood
 Flows from the trunk, that welters in the blood:
 The bed besprinkles, and bedews the ground. *Dryden.*

To BESPU'TTER. *v. a.* [from spatter.] To sputter over something; to dawb any thing by sputtering, or throwing out spittle upon it.

BEST, *adj.* the superlative from good. [bet, betera, besty, good, better, best, Saxon.]

1. Most good; that which has good qualities in the highest degree.

And he will take your fields, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. *1 Samuel, viii. 14.*

When the best things are not possible, the best may be made of those that are. *Hooker, b. v. § 9.*

When he is best, he is a little more than a man; and when he is worst, he is a little better than a beast. *Shaksp. M. of Ven.*

I think it a good argument to say, the infinitely wise God hath made it so: and therefore it is best. But it is too much confidence of our own wisdom, to say, I think it best, and therefore God hath made it so. *Lact.*

An evil intention perverts the best actions, and makes them fins. *Addison, Spectator, N° 213.*

2. The best. The utmost power; the strongest endeavour; the most; the highest perfection.

I profess not talking: only this,
 Let each man do his best. *Shaksp. Henry IV. p. i.*

The duke did his best to come down. *Bacon's War with Sp.*
 He does this to the best of his power. *Locke.*

My friend, said he, our sport is at the best. *Addison, Ovid.*

3. To make the best. To carry to its greatest perfection; to improve to the utmost.

Let there be freedom to carry their commodities where they may make the best of them, except there be some special cause of caution. *Bacon.*

His father left him an hundred drachmas; Alnaschar, in order to make the best of it, laid it out in glasses. *Addison, Spect.*

We set sail, and made the best of our way, till we were forced, by contrary winds, into St. Remo. *Addison on Italy.*

4. He shall dwell in that place where he shall choose in one of thy gates, where it liketh him best. *Deut. xxiii. 16.*

BEST is sometimes used in composition.

These latter best-be-trust-fies had some of them further instructions, to draw off the best friends and servants of Perkin, by making remonstrances to them, how weakly his enterprize and hopes were built. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

By this law of loving even our enemies, the christian religion discovers itself to be the most generous and best-natured institution that ever was in the world. *Tillotson, sermon v.*

To BESTAIN. *v. a.* [from stain.] To mark with stains; to spot.

We will not line his thin bestained cloke
 With our pure honours. *Shaksp. King John.*

To BESTE'AD. *v. a.* I bested; I have bested. [from stead.]

1. To profit.

Hence vain deluding joys,
 The brood of folly, without father bred,
 How little you bestead.
 Or fill the fixed mind with all your toys. *Milton.*

2. To treat; to accommodate.

And they shall pass through it hardly bestead, and hungry. *Isaiah, viii. 21.*

BE'STIAL. *adj.* [from best.]

1. Belonging to a beast, or to the class of beasts.

His wild disorder'd walk, his haggard eyes,
 Did all the bestial citizens surprize. *Dryden's Hind and P.*

2. Having the qualities of beasts; brutal; below the dignity of reason or humanity; carnal.

I have lost the immortal part of myself, and what remains is bestial. *Shaksp. Othello.*

Moreover, urge his hateful luxury,
 And bestial appetites, in change of lust. *Shaksp. Rich. III.*

For those, the race of Israel oft forsook
 Their living strength, and, unfrequented, left

BES

His righteous altar, bowing lowly down
 To bestial gods. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. i. l. 435.*

The things promised are not gross and carnal, such as may court and gratify the most bestial part of us. *Decay of Piety.*

BESTIALITY. *n. f.* [from bestial.] The quality of beasts; degeneracy from human nature.

What can be a greater absurdity, than to affirm bestiality to be the essence of humanity, and darkness the center of light? *Arbutnot and Pope's Mart. Scribner.*

BE'STIALY. *adv.* [from bestial.] Brutally; in a manner below humanity.

To BESTICK. *v. a.* preter. I bestuck, I have bestuck. [from stick.] To stick over with any thing; to mark any thing by infixing points or spots here and there.

Truth shall retire;
 Bestuck with slanderous darts; and works of faith
 Rarely be found. *Milt. Par. Lost, b. xii. l. 530.*

To BESTIR. *v. a.* [from stir.]

1. To put into vigorous action. It is seldom used otherwise than with the reciprocal pronoun.

As when men wont to watch
 On duty, sleeping found by whom they dread,
 Rouse and bestir themselves ere well awake. *Milton.*

Bestir her then, and from each tender stalk
 Whate'er earth, all-bearing mother, yields,
 She gathers. *Par. Lost, b. vi.*

But, as a dog that turns the spit,
 Bestirs himself, and plies his feet
 To climb the wheel, but all in vain,
 His own weight brings him down again. *Hudibras, p. ii. c. iii.*

What aileth them, that they must needs bestir themselves to get in air, to maintain the creature's life? *Roy on Creation.*

2. It is used by Shakspere with a common word.

I am scarce in breath, my lord.—No marvel you have so bestir'd your valour, you cowardly rascal! *Shaksp. King Lear.*

To BESTOW. *v. a.* [besteden, Dutch.]

1. To give; to confer upon.

All men would willingly have yielded him praise; but his nature was such as to bestow it upon himself, before any could give it. *Sidney.*

2. All the dedicate things of the house of the Lord did they bestow upon Basilin. *2 Chron. xxiv. 7.*

Sir Julius Caesar had, in his office, the disposition of the fix clarks places; which he had bestowed to such persons as he thought fit. *Clarendon.*

3. To give as charity.

Our Saviour doth plainly witness, that there should not be as much as a cup of cold water bestowed for his sake, without reward. *Hooker, b. ii. § 8.*

And though he was unsatisfied in getting,
 Which was a sin; yet in bestowing, madam,
 He was most princely. *Shaksp. Henry VIII.*

Spain to your gift alone her Indies owes;
 For what the powerfull takes not, he bestows. *Dryden.*

You always exceed expectations: as if yours was not your own, but to bestow on wanting merit. *Dryden's Fables, Ded.*

4. To give in marriage.

Good reverend father, make my person yours;
 And tell me how you would bestow yourself. *Shaksp.*

I could have bestowed her upon a fine gentleman, who extremely admired her. *Tatler, N° 75.*

5. To give as a present.

Pure oil and incense on the fire they throw,
 And fat of victims which his friends bestow. *Dryden.*

6. To lay out upon.

And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, for sheep, or for wine. *Deut. xiv. 26.*

7. To lay up; to flow; to place.

And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house. *2 Kings, v. 24.*

BESTOWER. *n. f.* [from bestow.] Giver; he that confers any thing; disposer.

They all agree in making one supreme God; and that there are several beings that are to be worshipped under him; some as the bestowers of thrones, but subordinate to the Supreme. *Stillings.*

BESTRAUGHT. *particip.* [Of this participle I have not found the verb; by analogy we may derive it from bestrait; perhaps it is corrupted from distraught.] Distracted; mad; out of one's senses; out of one's wits.

Ask Martin, the fat alewife, if she knew me not. What! I am not distraught. *Shaksp. Tam. the Shrew.*

To BESTREW. *v. a.* particip. pass. bestrewn, or bestreton. [from streu.] To sprinkle over.

So thick bestrewn,
 Abject and lost lay there, covering the flood. *Par. Lost, b. i.*

To BESTRID. *v. a.* I bestrid; I have bestrid, or bestridden. [from stride.]

1. To stride over any thing; to have any thing between one's legs.

Why

BET

Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world
 Like a colossus. *Shaksp. Julius Caesar.*

Make him bestride the ocean, and mankind
 Ask his consent, to use the sea and wind. *Waller.*

2. To step over.

That I see thee here,
 Thou noble thing! more dances my rapt heart,
 Than when I first my wedded mistress saw
 Bestride my threshold. *Shaksp. Coriolanus.*

3. It is often used of riding.

He bestrides the lazy pacing clouds,
 And sails upon the bosom of the air. *Shaksp. Rem. and Jul.*

That horse, that thou so often halt bestrid:
 That horse, that I so carefully have dress'd. *Shaksp. R. II.*

Venetians do not more uncouthly ride,
 Than did their lubber slave mankind bestride. *Dryden.*

The bounding feed you pompously bestride,
 Shares with his lord the pleasure and the pride. *Pope.*

4. It is used sometimes of a man standing over something which he defends.

He bestrid
 An o'erpress'd Roman, and i' th' consul's view
 Slew three opposers: Tarquin's self he met,
 And struck him on his knee. *Shaksp. Coriolanus.*

Let us rather
 Hold fast the mortal sword; and, like good men,
 Bestride our down-fall birthdom. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*

If thou see me down in the battle, and bestride me, so; 'tis a point of friendship. *Shaksp. Henry IV. p. i.*

He doth bestride a bleeding land,
 Gasping for life, under great Bolingbroke. *Shak. Henry IV.*

To BESTU'D. *v. a.* [from stud.] To adorn with studs, or shining prominences.

Th' unfought diamonds
 Would to emblaze the forehead of the deep,
 And so bestud with stars, that they below
 Would grow inur'd to light. *Milton.*

BET. *n. f.* [betban, to wager; yeb, a wager, Sax. from which the etymologists derive bet. I should rather imagine it to come from betan, to mend, encrease, or better, as a bet encreases the original wager.] A wager; something laid to be won upon certain conditions.

The hoary fool, who many days
 Has struggl'd with continu'd sorrow,
 Renews his hope, and blindly lays
 The desperate bet upon tomorrow. *Prior.*

His pride was in piquette,
 Newmarket fame, and judgment at a bet. *Pope.*

To BET. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To wager; to stake at a wager.

He drew a good bow: and dead? John of Gaunt loved him well, and betted much upon his head. *Shaksp. Henry IV. p. ii.*

He flies the court for want of clothes,
 Cries out 'gainst cocking, since he cannot bet. *B. Johnson.*

The god, unhappily engag'd,
 Complaint, and sigh'd, and cry'd, and fretted,
 Lost ev'ry earthly thing he betted. *Prior.*

BET. The old preterite of beat.

He staid for a better hour, till the hammer had wrought and bet the party more pliant. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

To BETAKE. *v. a.* preter. I betook; part. pass. betaken. [from take.]

1. To take; to seize: an obsolete sense.

Then to his hands that writ he did betake,
 Which he disclosing read. *Fairy Queen, b. i. c. xii. st. 25.*

2. To have recourse to; with the reciprocal pronoun.

The adverse party betaking itself to such practices as men embrace, when they behold things brought to desperate extremities.

Thou tyrant!
 Do not repent these things; for they are heavier
 Than all thy woes can stir: therefore betake thee
 To nothing but despair. *Shaksp. Winter's Tale.*

The rest, in imitation, to like arms
 Betook them, and the neighb'ring hills up tore. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. vi. l. 663.*

3. To apply; with the reciprocal pronoun.

With ease such fond chimeras we pursue,
 As fancy frames for fancy to subdue:
 But when any plan to action we betake,
 It fluns the mint, like gold that chymists make. *Dryden.*

As my observations have been the light whereby I have hitherto steer'd my course, so I here betake myself to them again. *Woodward's Natural History.*

4. To move; to remove.

Soft she withdrew; and, like a wood nymph light,
 Oread or Dryad, or of Della's train,
 Betook her to the groves. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ix. l. 389.*

They both betook them several ways;
 Both to destroy. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. x. l. 610.*

To BETOKE. *v. a.* [from teem.] To bring forth; to bestow; to give.

VOL. I.

BET

So would I, said th' enchanter, glad and fain
 Betem to you his sword, you to defend;
 But that this weapon's pow'r I well have kend,
 To be contrary to the work that ye intend. *Fairy Q. b. ii.*

Belike for want of rain; which I could well
 Betem them from the tempest of mine eyes. *Shaksp. Midsummer Night's Dream.*

To BETHINK. *v. a.* I bethought; I have bethought. [from think.]

To recall to reflection; to bring back to consideration, or recollection. It is generally used with the reciprocal pronouns; and of before the subject of thought.

They were sooner in danger than they could almost bethink themselves of change. *Sidney, b. ii.*

I have bethought me of another fault. *Shak. Meas. for M.*

I, better bethinking myself, and mulling his determination, gave him this order. *Raleigh's Essays.*

He himself,
 Infatiable of glory, had lost all:
 Yet of another plea bethought him soon. *Parad. Regained.*

The nets were laid, yet the birds could never bethink themselves, till hamper'd, and past recovery. *L'Estrange.*

Cherippus, then in time yourself bethink,
 And what your rage will yield by auction sink. *Dryden.*

A little consideration may allay his heat, and make him bethink himself, whether this attempt be worth the venture. *Locke.*

BETHLEHEM. *n. f.* [See BETHLEHEM.] An hospital for lunatics.

BETHLEHEMITE. *n. f.* [See BETHLEHEMITE.] A lunatic; an inhabitant of a madhouse.

BETTER. *particip.* [from better; which see.]

To BETTER. *v. a.* [from thrall.] To enslave; to conquer; to bring into subjection.

Ne let that wicked woman's scape away,
 For he it is that did my lord betray. *Shaksp. King John.*

To BETHUMP. *v. a.* [from thump.] To beat; to lay blows upon: a ludicrous word.

I was never so bethump'd with words,
 Since first I call'd my brother's father dad. *Shak. King John.*

To BETIDE. *v. n.* pret. I betided; or betid; part. pass. betide. [from bet, Sax. See TIDE.]

1. To happen to; to befall; to bechance; whether good or bad.

Said he then to the Palmer, reverend fire,
 What great misfortune hath betid this knight? *Fairy Queen.*

But say, if our deliverer up to heav'n
 Must recend, what will betide the few,
 His faithful, left among th' unfaithful herd,
 The enemies of truth? *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. xii. l. 480.*

2. Sometimes it has so.

Neither know I,
 What is betid to Cloten; but remain
 Perplex'd all. *Shaksp. Cymbeline.*

3. To come to pass; to fall out; to happen.

She, when her turn was come her tale to tell,
 Told of a strange adventure that betid.
 Betwixt the fox and th' ape by him misguid'd. *Spens. Hubs.*

In winter's tedious nights, sit by the fire,
 With good old folks, and let them tell thee tales
 Of woful ages, long ago betid. *Shaksp. Richard II.*

Let me hear from thee by letters,
 Of thy success in love; and what news else
 Betideth here in absence of thy friend. *Sh. Two Gent. of Ver.*

4. To become.

If he were dead, what would betide of thee? *Sh. Rich. III.*

BETIMES. *adv.* [from by and time; that is, by the proper BETIMES. } time.]

1. Seasonably; early.

Send succours, lords, and stop the rage betime. *Shaksp. Henry VI. p. ii.*

To measure life, learn thou betimes, and know
 Toward solid good what leads the nearest way. *Par. Reg.*

2. Soon; before long time has passed.

Whiles they are weak, betimes with them contend;
 For when they once to perfect strength do grow,
 Strong wars they make. *Fairy Queen, b. ii. c. iv. st. 34.*

He tires betimes, that spurs too full betimes. *Sh. Rich. II.*

There be some have an over early ripeness in their years, which fadeeth betimes: these are first, such as have brittle wits, the edge whereof is soon turned. *Bacon's Essays.*

Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth; that is, enter upon a religious course betimes. *Tillotson, sermon i.*

Short is the date, alas! of modern rhymes;
 And 'tis but just to let them live betimes. *Pope's Essay on Crit.*

3. Early in the day.

He that drinks all night, and is hang'd betimes in the morning, may sleep the sounder next day. *Sh. Measure for Measure.*

They rose betimes in the mornings, and offered sacrifice. *1 Mace. iv. 52.*

BE'TLE. *n. f.* An Indian plant, called water pepper. *Diet.*

BE'TRE. *n. f.* [from beten.]

To BETOKEN. *v. a.* [from token.]

1. To signify; to mark; to represent.

We know not wherefore churches should be the worse, if, at this